

In the Claims:

We claim:

1. (Currently Amended) Friction-lining segment (3.1, 3.2, 3.3; 13.1, 13.2; 23.1, 23.2; 33.1, 33.2) for a segmented friction lining (3, 13, 23, 33) of a friction plate (1) for a brake or clutch

with a lock mechanism (4.1, 4.2, 4.3; 14.1; 24.1; 34.1) arranged on one end and/or

with a lock counter-mechanism (5.1, 5.2, 5.3; 15.2; 25.2; 35.2) arranged on the other end characterized in that

at least one hole (8.1, 8.2, 8.3; 18.1; 28.1a, 28.1b; 38.1a, 38.1b, 38.1c, 38.2a) is provided

in a vicinity (7.1, 7.2, 7.3; 17.1; 27.1; 37.1) of said lock mechanism (4.1, 4.2, 4.3; 14.1, 24.1; 34.1) and/or

in a vicinity (7.1, 7.2, 7.3; 17.1; 27.1; 37.1) of said lock counter-mechanism (5.1, 5.2, 5.3; 15.2; 25.2; 35.2);

said lock mechanism (34.1) and/or said lock counter-mechanism (35.2) demonstrates a groove (5.1, 5.2, 5.3; 15.2; 25.2; 34.1c, 35.2c) and that said at least one hole (28.1a, 28.1b; 38.1b, 38.1c) is provided in the vicinity (7.1, 7.2, 7.3; 17.1; 27.1; 37.1) bordering said groove (5.1, 5.2, 5.3; 15.2; 25.2; 34.1c, 35.2c), wherein said at least one hole provides resiliency to said segmented friction lining

to accommodate expansion in the direction of the friction lining due to compression when a load is applied to said friction lining.

2. (Previously Presented) Friction-lining segment according to Claim 1, characterized in that said lock mechanism (34.1) and/or said lock counter-mechanism (35.2) demonstrates a clip (4.1, 4.2, 4.3; 14.1; 24.1; 34.1a, 34.1b, 35.2a, 35.2b) in which the at least one hole (8.1, 8.2, 8.3; 18.1; 38.1a, 38.2a) is provided.

3. (Previously Presented) Friction-lining segment (3.1, 3.2, 3.3; 13.1, 13.2; 23.1, 23.2; 33.1, 33.2) for a segmented friction lining (3, 13, 23, 33) of a friction plate (1) for a brake or clutch with a lock mechanism (4.1, 4.2, 4.3; 14.1; 24.1; 34.1) arranged on one end and/or with a lock counter mechanism (5.1, 5.2, 5.3; 15.2; 25.2; 35.2) arranged on the other end characterized in that said lock mechanism (34.1) and/or said lock counter mechanism (35.2) demonstrates a clip (4.1, 4.2, 4.3; 14.1,; 24.1; 34.1a, 34.1b; 35.2a, 35.2b) characterized in that said clip (4.1, 4.2, 4.3; 14.1, 24.1, 34.1a, 34.1b, 35.2a, 35.2b) demonstrates a neck (14.1b; 24.1b; 34.1b, 35.2b) and a head (14.1a; 24.1a; 34.1a, 35.2a) and that at least one hole (8.1, 8.2, 8.3; 18.1; 38.1a, 38.2a) is located in said head (14.1a, 24.1a; 34.1a, 35.2a), said at least one hole (8.1, 8.2, 8.3; 18.1, 38.1a, 38.2a) demonstrates an outside contour which essentially corresponds to the outside contour of said head (14.1a, 24.1a; 34.1a, 35.2a).

4. (Cancel)

5. (Previously Presented) Friction-lining segment according to Claim 4
3, characterized in that said head (34.1a, 35.2a) is designed rhombic and
demonstrates at least one hole (38.1a) with an ellipse-shaped outside contour.

6. (Cancel)

7. (Previously Presented) Friction-lining segment according to Claim 1,
characterized in that

the depth of said at least one hole 8.1, 8.2, 8.3; 18.1; 28.1a, 28.1b; 38.1a,
38.1b, 38.1c, 38.2a) extends across the entire thickness of said friction lining (3,
13, 23, 33).

8. (Currently Amended) Friction lining (3, 13, 23, 33) of a friction plate
for a brake or clutch,

having at least a first and a second friction-lining segments (3.1, 3.2,
3.3; 13.1, 13.2; 23.1, 23.2; 33.1, 33.2) adjoining each other on at least one end,
wherein

on a end adjoining one end of said adjacent second friction-lining
segment (3.1, 3.2, 3.3; 13.1, 13.2; 23.1, 23.2; 33.1, 33.2), said first friction-lining

segment (3.1, 3.2, 3.3; 13.1, 13.2; 23.1, 23.2; 33.1, 33.2) demonstrates a lock mechanism (4.1, 4.2, 4.3; 14.1; 24.1; 34.1), which

connects to a lock counter-mechanism (5.1, 5.2, 5.3; 15.2; 25.2; 35.2) arranged on the adjoining end of said ~~adjacent~~ second friction-lining segment (3.1, 3.2, 3.3; 13.1, 13.2; 23.1, 23.2; 33.1, 33.2), forming a lock (6.1, 6.2, 6.3; 16.1; 26.1; 36.1).

characterized in that

at least one hole (8.1, 8.2, 8.3; 18.1; 28.1a, 28.1b; 38.1a, 38.1b, 38.1c, 38.2a) is provided in a vicinity (7.1, 7.2, 7.3; 17.1; 27.1; 37.1) of said lock (6.1, 6.2, 6.3; 16.1; 26.1; 36.1).

9. (Currently Amended) Friction lining (3, 13, 23, 33) of a friction plate for a brake or clutch,

having at least a first and a second friction-lining segments (3.1, 3.2, 3.3; 13.1, 13.2; 23.1, 23.2; 33.1, 33.2) adjoining each other on at least one end, wherein

on a end adjoining one end of said ~~adjacent~~ second friction-lining segment (3.1, 3.2, 3.3; 13.1, 13.2; 23.1, 23.2; 33.1, 33.2), said first friction-lining segment (3.1, 3.2, 3.3; 13.1, 13.2; 23.1, 23.2; 33.1, 33.2) demonstrates a lock mechanism (4.1, 4.2, 4.3; 14.1; 24.1; 34.1), which

connects to a lock counter-mechanism (5.1, 5.2, 5.3; 15.2; 25.2; 35.2) arranged on the adjoining end of said ~~adjacent~~ second friction-lining segment

(3.1, 3.2, 3.3; 13.1, 13.2; 23.1, 23.2; 33.1, 33.2), forming a lock (6.1, 6.2, 6.3; 16.1; 26.1; 36.1).

characterized in that

at least one hole (8.1, 8.2, 8.3; 18.1; 28.1a, 28.1b; 38.1a, 38.1b, 38.1c, 38.2a) is provided in a vicinity (7.1, 7.2, 7.3; 17.1; 27.1; 37.1) of said lock (6.1, 6.2, 6.3; 16.1; 26.1; 36.1).

characterized in that

said lock mechanism (34.1) demonstrates a clip (4.1, 4.2, 4.3; 14.1; 24.1; 34.1a, 34.1b) having a neck (14.1b, 24.1b, 34.1b) and a head (14.1a, 24.1a, 34.1a), and that

said lock counter-mechanism (35.2) demonstrates a groove (5.1, 5.2, 5.3; 15.2; 25.2; 34.1c, 35.2c) which accommodates said clip (4.1, 4.2, 4.3; 14.1; 24.1; 34.1a, 34.1b) having said neck (14.1b, 24.1b, 34.1b) and said head (14.1a, 24.1a, 34.1a) essentially with positive fit, and that

said head (14.1a, 24.1a, 34.1a) demonstrates the at least one hole (8.1, 8.2, 8.3; 18.1; 38.1a).

10. (Original) Friction lining according to Claim 9, characterized in that at least one other hole (28.1a, 28.1b; 38.1b, 38.1c) is provided in the vicinity of said lock counter-mechanism (35.2) adjoining said groove (5.1, 5.2, 5.3; 15.2; 25.2; 34.1c, 35.2c).

11. (Previously Presented) Friction lining according to Claim 9 characterized in that

said lock counter-mechanism (35.2) demonstrates a clip having a neck (35.2b) and a head (35.2a), and that

said lock mechanism (34.1) demonstrates a groove (34.1c), which accommodates said clip having said neck (35.2b) and said head (35.2a) essentially with positive fit, and that

said head (35.2a) demonstrates at least one other hole (38.2a).

12. (Currently Amended) Process for manufacturing friction-lining segments (3.1, 3.2, 3.3; 13.1, 13.2; 23.1, 23.2; 33.1, 33.2) which demonstrate

at least one lock mechanism (4.1, 4.2, 4.3; 14.1; 24.1; 34.1) arranged one end and/or

at least one lock counter-mechanism (5.1, 5.2, 5.3; 15.2; 25.2; 35.2) arranged on the other end, and

which are punched or cut out of a fibrous material

characterized in that

at least one hole (8.1, 8.2, 8.3; 18.1; 28.1a, 28.1b; 38.1a; 38.1b, 38.1c, 38.2a) is milled, punched or cut

in a vicinity (7.1, 7.2, 7.3; 17.1; 27.1; 37.1) of said lock mechanism (4.1, 4.2, 4.3; 14.1; 24.1; 34.1) and/or

in a vicinity (7.1, 7.2, 7.3; 17.1; 27.1; 37.1) of said lock counter-mechanism (5.1, 5.2, 5.3; 15.2; 25.2; 35.2) and

forming a groove in said lock mechanism and/or said lock counter-mechanism; said groove is provided in the vicinity bordering said at least one hole wherein said at least one hole provides resiliency to said friction lining segments to accommodate expansion in the direction of said friction lining due to compression when a load is applied to said friction lining.

13. (Original) Process according to Claim 12, characterized in that said lock mechanism (4.1, 4.2, 4.3; 14.1; 24.1; 34.1) and/or said lock counter-mechanism (5.1, 5.2, 5.3; 15.2; 25.2; 35.2) on said friction-lining segments are punched or cut essentially perpendicular to a fiber direction.

14. (Previously Presented) Friction plate (1)
having a carrier (2, 32), and
having at least one friction lining (3, 13, 23, 33) arranged on at least one end face of said carrier (2, 32) in accordance with claim 8.

15. (Currently Amended) Process for manufacturing a friction plate (1)
having at least a first and a second friction-lining segments (3.1, 3.2, 3.3; 13.1, 13.2; 23.1, 23.2; 33.1, 33.2) adjoining each other on at least one end, wherein

on a end adjoining one end of said ~~adjacent~~ second friction-lining segment (3.1, 3.2, 3.3; 13.1, 13.2; 23.1, 23.2; 33.1, 33.2), said first friction-lining segment (3.1, 3.2, 3.3; 13.1, 13.2; 23.1, 23.2; 33.1, 33.2) demonstrates a lock mechanism (4.1, 4.2, 4.3; 14.1; 24.1; 34.1), which

connects to a lock counter-mechanism (5.1, 5.2, 5.3; 15.2; 25.2; 35.2) arranged on the adjoining end of said ~~adjacent~~ second friction-lining segment (3.1, 3.2, 3.3; 13.1, 13.2; 23.1, 23.2; 33.1, 33.2), forming a lock (6.1, 6.2, 6.3; 16.1; 26.1; 36.1).

characterized in that

at least one hole (8.1, 8.2, 8.3; 18.1; 28.1a, 28.1b; 38.1a, 38.1b, 38.1c, 38.2a) is provided in a vicinity (7.1, 7.2, 7.3; 17.1; 27.1; 37.1) of said lock (6.1, 6.2, 6.3; 16.1; 26.1; 36.1).

in which said friction-lining segments (3.1, 3.2, 3.3; 13.1, 13.2; 23.1, 23.2; 33.1, 33.2) of said friction lining (3, 13, 23, 33) are glued to said carrier (2, 32)

characterized in that

said friction plate (1) is impregnated with resin following said gluing.

16. (Previously Presented) Friction lining according to Claim 10, characterized in that

said lock counter-mechanism (35.2) demonstrates a clip having a neck (35.2b) and a head (35.2a), and that

said lock mechanism (34.1) demonstrates a groove (34.1c), which accommodates said clip having said neck (35.2b) and said head (35.2a) essentially with positive fit, and that

said head (35.2a) demonstrates at least one other hole (38.2a).

17. (Previously Presented) Friction plate (1)

having a carrier (2, 32), and

having at least one friction lining (3, 13, 23, 33) arranged on at least one end face of said carrier (2, 32) in accordance with claim 9.

18. (Previously Presented) Friction plate (1)

having a carrier (2, 32), and

having at least one friction lining (3, 13, 23, 33) arranged on at least one end face of said carrier (2, 32) in accordance with claim 10.

19. (Previously Presented) Friction plate (1)

having a carrier (2, 32), and

having at least one friction lining (3, 13, 23, 33) arranged on at least one end face of said carrier (2, 32) in accordance with claim 11.

20. (Previously Presented) Friction plate (1)

having a carrier (2, 32), and

Appl. No. 10/690,381
Amdt. Dated December 21, 2005
Reply to Office Action of October 27, 2005

having at least one friction lining (3, 13, 23, 33) arranged on at least one end face of said carrier (2, 32) in accordance with claim 16.